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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**6 JUNE 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Aptos – Potential Gang Connection in Hammer Attack**

(U) The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office has made an arrest in the case of last Monday's apparently targeted hammer attack that left one Aptos 17 year old facing brain surgery and "a long road to recovery." While authorities believe at least three masked suspects were involved in the early-morning break-in one 15-year-old boy from Watsonville is now in custody. Motive in the "very brutal attack" remains unclear, though investigators are focusing on the theft. They have not yet ruled out a potential gang connection to the crime.

SOURCE: 5 June 2018, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) San Jose – VPNFilter Malware Infecting 500,000 Devices More Powerful than Originally Thought

(U) Two weeks ago, officials in the private and public sectors warned that hackers working for the Russian government infected more than 500,000 consumer-grade routers in 54 countries with malware that could be used for a range of nefarious purposes. Now, researchers from Cisco's Talos security team say additional analysis shows that the malware is more powerful than originally thought and runs on a much broader base of models, many from previously unaffected manufacturers. Two weeks ago, however, the FBI recommended that all owners of consumer-grade routers, switches, and network-attached storage devices reboot their devices. While the advice likely disrupted VPNFilter's advance and bought infected users time, it may also have created the mistaken belief that rebooting alone was enough to fully remove VPNFilter from infected devices.

SOURCE: 6 June 2018, [Ars Technica](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – Officials Warn Congress on Risk of Drones, Seek New Powers**

(U) Washington DC – The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today will urge Congress to approve legislation giving the federal government new powers to disable or destroy threatening drones, according to testimony viewed by Reuters. A bipartisan group of senators last month introduced legislation to give DHS and the Justice Department authority to "to protect buildings and assets when there is an unacceptable security risk to public safety posed by an unmanned aircraft." The number of drone flights over sensitive areas or suspicious activities has jumped from eight incidents in 2013 to an estimated 1,752 incidents in 2016, citing federal statistics.

SOURCE: 6 June 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Virginia – Man Sentenced For Lying In Attempt to Join Military to Commit Jihad

(U) Norfolk – A Virginia man who told an FBI undercover employee he wanted to commit jihad has been sentenced to five years in prison for passport fraud and making false statements in his application to join the US military. A US attorney's office news release says 28-year-old Shivam Patel, of Williamsburg, was sentenced on 4 June. Patel, who was raised Hindu before converting to Islam, left his job teaching

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English in China to fly to Jordan, where he talked about joining the ISIS. Prosecutors say Jordan moved to deport him. He was met by the FBI informant, who said Patel expressed admiration for an Army officer who killed 13 soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas. Patel didn't disclose his overseas trips in his application.

SOURCE: 5 June 2018, [WJLA](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Israel – Security Services Foiled an Alleged Terror Plot against Netanyahu**

(U) Jerusalem – Israeli security service Shin Bet announced the arrest of three Palestinians that were part of an alleged terror cell planning to attack Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. One of the suspects allegedly also planned attacks against the US Consulate in East Jerusalem as well as other senior Israel officials, including Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat. The Shin Bet said the plot was orchestrated from Syria and it involved sneaking in an operative from Jordan and “significant terrorist activity.” The Israel security service said they began collecting intelligence on their targets over the past few months and the arrested were made in April.

SOURCE: 5 June 2018, [FOX News](#)

(U) Kenya – Five Police Officers Killed in Explosive Device Attack

(U) Liboi – Five police officers were killed in eastern Kenya when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device suspected to have been planted by Somalia’s al Shabaab group. Al Shabaab is fighting to topple Somalia’s government, establish their own rule based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law and drive out of the country peacekeepers deployed by the African Union. The militants frequently launch attacks in neighboring Kenya to pressure it to withdraw its troops which form part of the peacekeeping force.

SOURCE: 6 June 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) Somalia – US Airstrike Kills 27 Al-Shabaab Members

(U) Bosasso – The US military says it has carried out an airstrike in northern Somalia that killed 27 al-Shabaab extremists. The statement issued Monday by the US Africa command said it assesses that no civilians were killed in the attack on Sunday about 26 miles southwest of Bosasso, the commercial capital of the semiautonomous Puntland state. The area has recently seen attacks on local forces by extremists aligned with ISIS. The Trump administration approved expanded military operations against extremists in Somalia, including al-Shabaab, which is linked to al-Qa'ida and was blamed for the truck bombing in Mogadishu in October that killed more than 500 people.

SOURCE: 4 June 2018, [Star Tribune](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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